

Town of Fairfield Selectboard Minutes

February 24, 2025

In Attendance: Tom Howrigan, Gavin Ryan, Ron Bocash, Brian Dubie, David Persons

Roads: absent

Town Clerk: absent

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth

Secretary: Melissa Manson

Visitors: Sara Currier, NWATV

Brian made a motion to approve the minutes from 02.10.2025. Ron seconded. All in favor.

1. Sara Currier interviewed for the position of Animal Control Officer.

Brian made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel. Ron seconded. All in favor.

Brian made a motion to enter Executive Session. David seconded. All in favor.

Brian made a motion to hire Sara Currier for a 6-month trial period, with the first 3 months being under David Person's guidance. Ron seconded. All in favor.

2. Cathy thanks the SB for their support around the passing of her father.
3. Certificate of highway Mileage signed by Selectboard. The reimbursement calculation will longer include the .49m section of Menard Rd that the State says is not up to standard. We will still have to go through the reclassification process for that section of Menard Rd in the spring.
4. Annual Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory signed by the Selectboard.
5. Review of roads grants. McKenzie Rd grant is still pending. Need to hire an engineer for the North Rd. engineering grant awarded by VTRANS- SB wants to revise the purchasing policy at the next meeting to increase the purchase amount, above which we are required to obtain two estimates prior to contracting. Cathy will find out what other municipalities amount is. Cathy says District 8 will offer support for project development. Selwctboar asks Cathy to invite District 8 Project Manager to come to a meeting to discuss parameters of their support/ assistance. Also, see if Engineer Tyler Billingsley can come to the same meeting. The state provided a hydraulic study of the Saint Rocks Bridge. SB discussed whether to pursue an engineering grant for this. Because the bridge is not dangerous, it is not high priority at this time. The State says the size of the Chester Arthur bridge warrants a more detailed hydraulic study than they will provide. They recommend that we hire an engineer consultant for a detailed hydraulic model using a site survey. There is a grant available that may cover this expense, which is due in April. Cathy will pursue this grant.
6. As per Act 171, we are required to have a liaison to the State Ethics Commission. This act also requires that Fairfield's Selectboard members, Library Trustees, P&Z Board Members and Department heads take an ethics training.

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Brian made a motion to appoint Cathy as Liaison to the State Ethics Commission. Gavin seconds. All in favor.

7. There were 32 loss control recommendations from PACIF. We need to improve 50% of them in order to qualify for grants from PACIF. Many are easy and are being worked on.
8. ARPA funds have been expended for the town garage furnace but it's not installed yet. We need an update. ARPA funds report will be due soon.
9. Torrey Crossman has resigned as the President of the Historical Society. Cathy asked him to follow up on the PACIF recommendations prior to his departure. Brian asks that Torrey provide an update to the Selectboard prior to his departure.

Tom made a motion to approve the Traffic Ordinance amendment to include no overnight parking during a snow event in the Park & Ride or the front of the Town Office and no parking for more than 3 consecutive days in the Park & Ride. David seconded. All in favor.

10. Brian has reviewed the Town Administrator's research file and the Selectboard's discussions about Town- owned properties. He recommends that, at next week's Town Meeting, they announce that four properties owned by the Town will go up for sale this year. Residents should be informed that notices will be posted in town when 169 Sherman Rd.; a Landlocked North Rd Forest parcel; 277 Barrywilde rd.; and 1175 Romar rd. go up for sale. This process will take place in accordance to legal requirements, and an attorney will handle each transaction separately, based on how and when each parcel came into possession of the Town.
11. Tom signed overweight permits.
12. Melissa and Brian reported on the Community Planning Forum is on 2/17 at the school. It was well attended and helped to build some bridges between diverging views. We will repeat the process on March 4th at the conclusion of Town Meeting.

Brian made a motion to approve the warrants. Ron seconded. All in favor.

David made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. Brian seconded. All in favor.

Brian made a motion to exit Executive Session. Gavin seconded. All in favor. No decisions.

David makes a motion to adjourn. Brian seconds. All in favor.

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